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straight segment 82 which extends at an acute angle with respect to frangible membrane 63c, namely, upwardly and outwardly from spout neck 38c. Gripping member 69c is molded in its straight shape at an angle of approximately 30° with respect to frangible membrane 63c. One should appreciate that gripping member 69c can extend from frangible membrane at an angle of approximately 10° to approximately 60°, and preferably at an angle of approximately 15° to approximately 45° in accordance with the present invention.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6-10.

Please amend claims 1, 11, 13, 15 and 18 as follows. All pending claims, whether or not amended, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Currently Once Amended) A fitment comprising:

a spout having upper and lower ends;

a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness; and

a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a semicircular member having first and second terminal ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and said second end being remotely located from said first end.

2. A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member has an inner wall and an outer wall, said fitment further comprising gripping protrusions extending radially inward from said inner wall.

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cont 3. A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member is helically shaped.

A2 4. A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said second end of said semicircular member is located above said upper end of said spout.

5. A fitment according to claim 1 wherein said semicircular member extends approximately 270°.

A3 11. (Currently Once Amended) A fitment comprising:
a spout projecting upward from said spout flange, said spout having upper and lower ends;

a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness;

a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a horizontally extending member having first and second ends, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and said second end being remotely located from said first end, wherein an upper portion of said horizontally extending member is above said upper end of said spout; and

a frangible connector interconnecting a portion of said horizontally extending member and an adjacent portion of said frangible membrane, said frangible connector located between said first and second ends.

12. A fitment according to claim 11 further comprising at least two frangible connectors, each frangible connector interconnecting a portion of said horizontally extending member and a respective portion of said frangible membrane.

13. (Currently Once Amended) A fitment comprising:

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a spout having upper and lower ends;
a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness;

a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a horizontally extending member having first and second portions, said first portion being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness, and said second portion being remotely located from said first portion; and

a frangible connector interconnecting an intermediate portion of said horizontally extending member and an adjacent portion of said frangible membrane, said frangible connector located between said first and second portions.

14. A fitment according to claim 13 further comprising at least two frangible connectors, each frangible connector interconnecting a portion of said horizontally extending member and a respective portion of said frangible membrane.

15. (Currently Once Amended) A fitment comprising:
a spout having upper and lower ends;
a frangible membrane sealing off said spout and having a peripheral edge joined to said spout along a line of weakness;
a gripping member adapted to facilitate removal of said frangible membrane from said spout, said gripping member including a horizontally extending member having a lower edge and a first end, said first end being connected to said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness; and

a frangible connection interconnecting a portion of said lower edge of said horizontally extending member and an adjacent portion of said upper end of said spout.

16. A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said gripping member further comprises a second terminal end, said second end being remotely located from said first end.

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17. A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member extends at least approximately 270° along said upper end of said spout.

18. (Currently Once Amended) A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member comprises a lower tapered edge which terminates at said frangible connection.

19. A fitment according to claim 15 wherein a web interconnects said gripping member and said frangible membrane adjacent said line of weakness.

20. A fitment according to claim 15 further comprising a stop adapted to limit propagation along said frangible connection, said stop interrupts said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said horizontally extending member.

21. A fitment according to claim 20 wherein said stop comprises an aperture in said frangible connection adjacent said first end of said horizontally extending member.

22. A fitment according to claim 15 wherein said horizontally extending member of said gripping member includes cap-engaging structure.

23. A fitment according to claim 22 wherein said cap-engaging structure includes an external thread adapted to cooperate with an internal thread of a cap.